

Biennial Monitoring of Active Cattle and/or Sheep Grazing Allotments/Leases - 2020 Within Primary Conservation Area (PCA) of the NCDE

The following tables provide the baseline information for cattle and/or sheep allotments within the Primary Conservation Area (PCA). Table 1 provides the baseline information as of 2018 (the last monitoring report). Table 2 provides the baseline information as of 2020. **Black bold text with yellow highlight** in Table 2 identifies updates/changes from 2018 baseline values (presented in Table 1). Any colors, highlights, or bolded text (other than the column headings) is explained for individual agency/units after the tables.

In 2019, it was discovered that the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy and its glossary needed clarifications between Animal Unit Months (AUM) and Head Months (HM) and on what specific information will be tracked. In addition, Federal agencies use the word “allotment”, MT Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) and Blackfeet Tribe use the word “lease”, MT Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks use “cooperative land use agreements”, and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) use “range units”. For the purposes of this reporting, “allotments/leases” will be used for all agencies.

Table 1. Grazing Allotments/Leases for 2018.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
Flathead NF	3	Cattle	33,460	3	497	
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	25	Cattle	185,296	22	8,023	Three allotments are vacant; and three active allotments do not have active permittees.
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	1	Sheep	8,552	1	119	
Kootenai NF	3	Cattle	42,386	1	442	Two allotments have vacant permittees
Lolo NF	1	Cattle	2,040	1	35	
Glacier NP	0	na	0	0	0	GNP does not permit commercial livestock grazing allotments within the park boundary.
BLM Butte FO	9	Cattle	4,967	7	375	Two active allotments do not have a current permittee.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
BLM Lewistown FO	17	Cattle	15,532	17	1,415	
BLM Missoula FO	1	Cattle	3,341	1	61	This allotment was missing from the 2014 report.
DNRC	na	Mostly Cattle	53,798	123	15,859	
MFWP	na	Cattle	14,967	4	2,153	Lease acres are approximate. One lease has a range for AUMs, used the maximum number.
Flathead IR ⁴		Cattle or Horses	1,705			
Blackfeet IR ⁴						BIR is fully leased. Number of leases and acres are not available.

¹ – Number of allotments/leases that could have a permittee.

² – Acres for the entire allotment/lease, which may or may not include other land ownerships than the agency issuing the allotment/lease.

³ – Number of Animal Unit Months permitted for allotment/lease, whether or not the allotment/lease is in use or not.

⁴ – Information is from 2014. It will be updated in future reports.

Table 2. Grazing Allotments/Leases for 2020.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
Flathead NF	3	Cattle	33,460	3	497	
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	26	Cattle	199,689	18	7,983	Three allotments are vacant; and five active allotments do not have active permittees.
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	1	Sheep	8,552	1	119	
Kootenai NF	3	Cattle	42,386	1	442	Two allotments have vacant permittees
Lolo NF	1	Cattle	2,040	1	35	
Glacier NP	0	na	0	0	0	GNP does not permit commercial livestock grazing allotments within the park boundary.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
BLM Butte FO	9	Cattle	4,967	7	375	Two active allotments do not have a current permittee.
BLM Lewistown FO	17	Cattle	14,804	17	1,308	
BLM Missoula FO	1	Cattle	3,341	1	61	
DNRC	na	Mostly Cattle	60,863	125	15,433	93.7% are cattle; 6.3% are sheep
MFWP	na	Cattle	14,967	4	1,762	Lease acres are approximate.
Flathead IR ⁴		Cattle or Horses	2,962			Updated information provided.
Blackfeet IR ⁴						BIR is fully leased. Number of leases and acres are not available.

¹ – Number of allotments/leases that could have a permittee.

² – Acres for the entire allotment/lease, which may or may not include other land ownerships than the agency issuing the allotment/lease.

³ – Number of Animal Unit Months permitted for allotment/lease, whether or not the allotment/lease is in use or not.

⁴ – Information is from 2014. It will be updated in future reports.

Helena-Lewis & Clark NF – In comparing 2018 to 2020, one allotment was discovered to have been missing from the list, and should have been included in 2014 and 2018. Thus, the # of allotments and acres of allotments have increased by 1 and 14,393 acres respectively. AUMs increased by 335 as a result of including this missing allotment. That allotment, that has been existing and active for years, is a correction to the baseline, and does not count as an increase. **The baseline is 26 allotments and 199,689 acres.** Of the 26 active allotments, 3 are vacant and 5 do not have an active permittee, so there are 18 allotments with active permittees. For the one sheep allotment, AUMs are 119 in 2020. Per the direction, the allotment may increase to 133 AUMs in the future as there were 133 AUMs in 2014.

BLM Lewistown FO – There is a decrease in the number of acres for allotments from 15,532 to 14,804. **The baseline will remain at 15,532 acres, allowing for decision space to increase the acres under allotments by 728 acres.** There is a change in the number of AUMs from 2018 to 2020. As there is not standard or guideline on the number of cattle AUMs, this is an update only.

DNRC – DNRC leases are fluid compared to federal allotments and the number will significantly vary over time. The agency does not have a lease unless it is active. As a result, only the acres, number of leases, and AUMs will be provided for reports. DNRC provided the percentages of cattle and sheep leases this year.

MFWP – MFWP has cooperative land use agreements. The agency does not have an agreement without an active cooperator. The cooperator’s “payment” is practices that do not degrade the land. The AUMs are will vary over time, and for 2020, one “lease” had a decrease in AUMs.

Flathead IR – CS&KT provided updated information. For 2020, there are 4.628 square miles (2,962 acres). Of the 4.628 square miles, 1.525 square miles (976 acres) of active range units, and another 3.103 square miles (1,986 acres) are tribal agricultural leases. Those tribal agricultural leases are used for farming or agriculture or livestock, and some are used for residential leases. As a result, there is at least 1.525 square miles and as much as 4.638 square miles. The higher number will be used for reporting.

Monitoring report completed by:

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